



News Release

Children Explore World of Animals, Agriculture at U of M Crookston on April 16-20, 2007

By Amy Lubarski, Elizabeth Tollefson on Wednesday, April 11, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (April 11, 2007) – Some 800 children ages 3 and up will explore the world of agriculture and farm animals during the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) Tours for Tots program this year.

From April 16 - 20, 2007, children will travel through the animal facilities at UMC and learn about sheep, beef and dairy cattle as well as horses. Groups will also visit the campus greenhouse and see the wide variety of plants that are grown and view research areas along the way.

"Introducing young children to farm animals and agriculture are essential to their understanding of the importance of agriculture," says Ron Del Vecchio, Ph.D., who also serves as head of UMC's Agriculture Department. "Agriculture is a very important component of the vitality and growth of the northwest region, and we want children to have the chance to learn about agricultural practices and have fun at the same time."

UMC Agricultural Business Major Melissa Herbst, chair and director for this year's event, says children will have the chance to see and interact with animals and hear about projects and activities from UMC students. The groups are from area kindergartens, preschools, day cares, and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) organizations in northwest Minnesota and Grand Forks, ND.

For more information on UMC's Tour for Tots, contact Executive Office and Administrative Specialist Amy Lubarski at 218-281-8101 (lubarski@umcrookston.edu).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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